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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Seventh (pre-sessional) executive session
Geneva, 15 September 1994
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE SESSION

Provisional agenda and annotations for the seventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda of the session

2. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

   (a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for the purposes of elections

   (b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

   (c) Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

   (d) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1995

3. Nomination of officers for the Bureau and Sessional Committees of the forty-first session of the Board

4. Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

5. Contribution of the Trade and Development Board to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

6. Outcome of the mid-term review (May 1994): matters requiring follow-up

7. Preliminary arrangements for the ninth session of the Conference

8. Other business

9. Report of the seventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The rules of procedure of the Board are contained in TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1. The guidelines for the Trade and Development Board in executive session were recently circulated in TD/B/EX(6)/1, annex.

Item 1: Adoption of the agenda of the session

2. The provisional agenda for the seventh (pre-sessional) executive session was approved by the Board at its 841st plenary meeting on 29 April 1994.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(7)/1	Provisional agenda and annotations for the seventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Trade and Development Board
TD/B/EX(7)/1/Add.1	Addendum

Item 2: Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

Item 2(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections

3. The membership of UNCTAD stands at 187 and is as reflected in TD/B/INF.189/Rev.1.

Documentation

TD/B/INF.189/Rev.1 (pages 2-4)	Membership of UNCTAD

Item 2(b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board

4. The membership of the Board stands at 138, and is as reflected in TD/B/INF.189/Rev.1.

Documentation

TD/B/INF.189/Rev.1 (pages 5-6)	Membership of the Trade and Development Board

Item 2(c) Membership of the Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups

5. Following the Board's decision, at the resumed second part of its fortieth session, to wind up the five existing Ad Hoc Working Groups and to establish three new ones, the Officer-in-Charge of UNCTAD dispatched a communication to States members, dated 22 June 1994, requesting Governments to nominate national experts to form the core membership of the new Working Groups or to indicate their desire to participate as observers. Replies were requested to be submitted by 7 September 1994.

6. An interim note taking into account replies received up to 7 September 1994 regarding membership of the new Ad Hoc Working Groups, will be made available in a conference room paper.

7. The Board may wish to note that the secretariat will complete the lists as further replies are received from Governments, and will circulate an updated membership list as an official document of the Board at the pre-sessional executive session in Spring 1995.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(7)/CRP.2	Membership of the Standing Committees and provisional membership of the new Ad Hoc Working Groups

Item 2(d) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1995

8. At its pre-sessional executive session, the Board will be required to establish the membership of the Working Party for 1995.

9. It will be recalled that, under the provisions of Board decision 236(XXIII), the Working Party has consisted of 19 members, as follows: Lists A and C combined - 9 (Africa 3, Asia 3, Latin America 3); List B - 6; List D - 3; and China - 1.

10. The draft resolution on the terms of reference of the Working Party (being circulated in TD/B/EX(6)/L.1), which will be before the Board at its sixth executive session on 13 September 1994, calls, in operative paragraph 2(d), for the membership of the Working Party to be expanded and henceforth to consist of "twenty-five core members elected by the Trade and Development Board for a term of one year on the basis of equitable geographical distribution".

11. Such a membership, under past practice in UNCTAD for equitable geographical distribution, would yield a composition of the Working Party as follows:

Lists A and C combined		12
Africa	4	
Asia	4	
Latin America	4	
List B		8
List D		4
China		1

For institutional purposes, and in order to avoid confusion with decision 236(XXIII), a draft decision concerning the revised geographical membership of the Working Party will be before the Board for adoption.

In-session documentation

Item 3 Nomination of officers for the Bureau and Sessional Committees of the forty-first session of the Board

12. It will be recalled that, at the second part of its fortieth session, the Board designated H.E. Mr. Richard A. Pierce (Jamaica) as President of the Board at its forty-first session.

13. In order to expedite proceedings at the opening of the first part of the forty-first session, the Board will seek nominations for the remaining posts as follows:

Bureau of the Board

(a) Ten Vice-Presidents

Lists A and C combined		4
Asia	2	
Africa	1	
Latin America	1	
List B		4
List D		2

(b) Rapporteur

Africa	1

Officers of Sessional Committees

Sessional Committee I:	Chairman Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur
Sessional Committee II:	Chairman Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur

No documentation

Item 4 Reports and activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Board: matters requiring action

14. Annotations to this item will be included in an addendum to the present document.

Item 5 Contribution of the Trade and Development Board to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations

Background note

15. By decision 46/472, of 13 April 1992, the General Assembly established a Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, which has reported regularly to the Assembly.

16. In its report to the forty-eighth session (A/48/48), the Preparatory Committee drew attention to its agreement that a suitable climax to the fiftieth anniversary would need to be identified, which should have universal importance, be enduring in its effect and have a suitable symbolic value; and to the hope that the commemoration would effectively reposition the United Nations in the minds of its various constituencies and demonstrate its continuing relevance as the next century approached.

17. Concerning activities within the United Nations system, the Committee noted that the Secretary-General attached great significance to the system-wide nature of the anniversary, particularly since several of the specialized agencies and other organs would celebrate their own anniversaries in or around 1995. The Committee agreed that, within the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, an extraordinary opportunity existed to highlight the mutually reinforcing goals of the United Nations and its sister organizations.

18. By decision 48/406, of 15 October 1993, the General Assembly took note of the work of the Preparatory Committee, including the decision that the theme for the commemoration would be:

"We the Peoples of the United Nations...
United for a Better World."

By the same decision, the Assembly also took note that an open-ended drafting group had been established to prepare a Declaration to be adopted in 1995 to mark the anniversary.

19. Following meetings from January to May 1994, the Preparatory Committee, in a further report to the General Assembly (A/48/48/Add.1), recommended a resolution for adoption by the General Assembly by which, inter alia, the Assembly would decide to convene a special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly from 22 to 24 October 1995 at the level of Head of State or Government.

* * *

20. In the light of the above background information, the Board may wish to hold a preliminary discussion under this item at its pre-sessional executive session. The Board may also wish to consider establishing an informal working mechanism to make recommendations concerning the form which the contribution of the Trade and Development Board to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations might take; and request the Chairman of the informal mechanism to make a preliminary report to the Board before the close of the first part of its forty-first session.

No documentation

Item 6 Outcome of the mid-term review (May 1994): matters requiring follow-up

- Participation of experts in UNCTAD intergovernmental meetings

21. In paragraph 27 of its conclusions and decisions 415(XL), of 27 May 1994, the Board, while agreeing that the participation of experts and officials involved in policy formulation is particularly useful and should be extended, recognized that such participation by developing countries, and by LDCs in particular, has been inadequate.

22. In order to facilitate the participation of a wide range of countries, notably the LDCs, the Board decided to study the possibility of financing it from the programme budget under budget lines for travel of representatives, and requested the secretariat to present the financial implications of such a proposal at the next session of the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(7)/L.1	Financial implications of providing travel assistance from the regular budget to experts from developing countries, notably the LDCs

Item 7 Preliminary arrangements for the ninth session of the Conference

23. In accordance with rule 1 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (TD/63/Rev.2), the Conference should meet at intervals of not more than four years. UNCTAD VIII was held in 1992. It is therefore expected that UNCTAD IX will be held in 1996.

24. To assist the Board in initiating preliminary discussions under this item, the secretariat has prepared a brief note containing background information and suggestions for action which the Board might wish to take at this stage.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(7)/CRP.1	Preliminary arrangements for the ninth session of the Conference Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 8 Other business

Item 9 Report of the seventh (pre-sessional) executive session of the Board

25. In accordance with past practice, the Board may wish to authorize the Rapporteur, under the authority of the President, to prepare the report of the Board on its seventh (pre-sessional) executive session.